

NOTICES.

The Secretary wishes to remind students that subscriptions for 1912 are now due, and that she will be glad to receive them as early in the year as possible. Kindly address to Miss Gray, 5, Old Palace Lane, Richmond, Surrey.

The addresses have taken up so much room that several most interesting articles have been held over till the next number of the *PIANTA*; also the article on Scouting has, unfortunately, had to be much shortened.

The next number of *L'UMILE PIANTA* will appear on March 15th. All communications should reach the Editor not later than February 25th.

STUDENTS' MEETING.

FEBRUARY 3rd, 1912.

I am extremely sorry to have to announce that the arrangements for the visit to the Mint have come to naught. In the first place, orders are only issued in the morning, which was not specified when I wrote first about going, and I naturally concluded that "Saturday" meant both morning and afternoon. In the second place, all orders available for February 3rd have already been issued, in spite of applying seven weeks ahead.

My thoughts next turned to the Bank of England; but that also is closed in the afternoon.

Now I propose that we spend the time at the Tower of London; and I hope that all students who had hoped to come to the Mint will still come, and that we shall be quite a large party. I suggest that we meet at the gates on Tower Hill not later than 3 p.m., so that we shall have time to make a tour of inspection before dusk, after which we can adjourn to some place and have tea. I hope this suggestion will commend itself to students, and that we shall have a pleasant afternoon.

—LILIAN GRAY.

THE STUDENTS' VISIT TO
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

(Slightly shortened.—ED)

The Students' Meeting on Saturday, December 2nd, 1911, was a great success. It was held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, by the kind invitation of Miss Mew, who is known there as "Sister Faith." At about 3.15 p.m. I arrived at the gates in "Little Britain," and a lift took me up to the "Faith" (which is a women's ward), and I was told to "open the door and walk in." Then I was greeted by a charming lady in nurse's uniform, and by several students whom I knew. We were taken round the ward, which is one with a partition running up the centre and bathrooms at the end. In each division are eleven beds, and by standing at the bottom of the dividing wall you can look up either half of the ward, which is shaped like a "U." Each ward has its own kitchen and store cupboard, and during the day time has four nurses, besides the "sister-in-charge." At night two staff nurses are on duty. The nurses are changed fairly often, no nurse remaining in the same ward for more than six months. The sister-in-charge, on the contrary, is the sister-in-charge for ever! For example, I understand that Miss Mew has been the sister-in-charge of the Faith Ward for the last ten years, and will be as long as she cares to remain, and it struck me that she is very happy there.

Before going further, let me explain to those interested in such matters, that the training for a full-fledged nurse at this hospital is for three years before she can get a certificate, and for one year after that great event. Also a girl cannot enter for training until she is 23, except by special arrangement.

After seeing the ward and bathrooms where the water is turned on by one's foot, and where many a luckless probationer gets "drowned out" during her first days of trial, we went into Miss Mew's sweet little sitting-room for tea.

Here we were joined by one or two late comers, who brought our numbers up to fourteen. As soon as the business of tea was finished, we wended our way up to "Elizabeth" (the maternity ward). Here are beautiful white bedsteads at the end of each of which is slung a little white cradle. Most of the beds and cradles were occupied by the mothers and daughters respectively (there happened to be no boys that day), and one little pink mite was yelling lustily, and must needs be picked up and comforted by the nurse. This ward is only a year old, and is particularly fascinating with its bathroom, where four babies can be bathed at the same time (by four persons, of course!). This seen, we descended to the dispensary, which is on the ground floor. And to me this was perhaps the most interesting department of all. The head of the department, who most kindly took us round and showed and explained things to us, said that on an average 1,000 prescriptions are made up and given to 1,000 out-patients every day. Each of those patients costs the hospital 3d. in mere medicine. I understand that the dispensary alone costs about £10,000 a year, and that does not include salaries!

Here we saw large glass jars containing all sorts of mixtures, which are drawn off by taps just as lemonade, beer, etc., are drawn at restaurants. Everything is most beautifully arranged, and the various devices for distinguishing between poisonous and harmless drugs were explained to us. The most deadly poisons are kept in a locked cupboard, with glass doors, the opening of either of which rings a bell which continues to ring until the door is closed again. This bell is the signal for one of the other dispensers to come and check the poisons that are being dealt with. Thus no poison can be used without the knowledge of two men.

On the basement, in a large room under the surgery, the various drugs are manufactured. Here are large quantities of dried rhubarb and various other roots, barks and raw materials, of which are made powders, tinctures, etc., with

names familiar even to the uninitiated. Here, too, are the great stones that grind the powders, the huge iron-jacketed cauldron in which concoctions are boiled, the water-distillery, the churn that mixes chloroform and water together, and many other things. The machinery was turned on for our especial benefit, and we saw the churn churning, the mill turning, ointment being smoothed, tabloids being made, and soda-water syphons being filled.

There is a special laboratory where all drugs are tested before being sent up to the dispensary. Down here, too, is the wine cellar, where huge barrels of alcohol of various degrees of purity are kept under lock and key; also barrels, or rather, "pipes" of port. Then on to the engine-room, where the air used throughout the hospital is washed and warmed. Portions of the machinery were frosted over with a beautiful snowy surface, which was due to the effect of the ammonia gas, by means of which water is frozen to supply the hospital with ice. Up we went again to the ground floor to visit the surgery, which is a very large room surrounded by clean little tiled consulting-rooms. On the very topmost floor we went into one of the students' theatres, where lectures take place. It opens on to a flat roof from which there is a good view over London. Not far off is St. Paul's, and right down below us we saw the new General Post Office, a tremendous building. From some of the windows of the hospital one can see right into the sorting-room, where hundreds of men are sorting thousands of letters.

Space does not allow me to describe any other wards, of which there are twenty-eight, and of which we only saw a few; nor the nurses' dining- and sitting-rooms, which were part of the old Christ's Hospital School; nor any of the other departments, such as the eye department, and the electrical department, etc.

Perhaps, however, you would be interested to hear that the bell metal mortar we saw was made about 1640, from which date there are extant unbroken records of the doings of the

"apothecaries" at St. Bartholomew's, and there are unconnected records of the hospital from time to time even before that.

In closing, I should like to tell Miss Mew how very much we all appreciated and enjoyed our visit; also to express our gratitude to her colleagues for their kindness and courtesy in showing us over their various departments.

LETTER FROM PRESENT STUDENTS.

SCALE HOW,

December, 1911.

DEAR EX-STUDENTS,

There is not very much College news beyond what you already know from our last letter. We have much enjoyed a series of lectures on Art in Daily Life, by Mr. Stoughton Holborn, an Oxford University Extension lecturer. He has the most original ideas for model dwellings for the artisan class, and urges all newly-married folk to consecrate one room in their house as a museum in which to put the 26th cruet stand. Mr. Stoughton Holborn falling ill, his place was taken last Wednesday by Mr. Stewart Dick, who gave an exceptionally interesting lecture on Japanese Art. As authorities on the subject, he quoted Lafcadio Hearn, Arthur Morrison, and Laurence Binyon, and drew our attention to the collection in the British Museum, which for the last eighteen months has been open to the public. He told two charming stories, one a legend of Old Japan: A famous artist who was brought up in a monastery was one day, when quite a boy, discovered by a priest drawing when he should have been praying. As a punishment he was bound to a pillar, and he drew mice on the floor with his toe to pass away the time. These mice were so realistic that they came to life, and gnawed his cords asunder. The priest, finding out this, took it to be a sign from heaven that the boy was destined to be a great artist. Mr. Dick then told us how in the Spring the Japanese go and picnic in the orchards, and before they

leave, each guest writes a verse on a tiny kakimono, which he pins to a tree in homage to the beauty of its blossom.

In the evening of the same day (December 6th) we went to a lecture given by Mr. Kearton. He showed us a great many slides of photographs taken by himself and his brother of all sorts of birds and animals, even of such opposites as sparrows and lions, and the latter photographed in their native haunts in Africa.

To celebrate Hallow e'en, besides the usual observances, we gave a Nigger Minstrel Performance by way of entertaining our guests, the Juniors. This we repeated by request at the Children's Party on December 9th, when the children also gave their play, which was a great success. It dealt with the story of the Armada. The splendour of the Court was upheld by the elder girls, while the little boys supplied the citizen army.

The Drawing-room Evenings given this term were as follows: The Scottish Borderland by Miss Gibson; Leonardo da Vinci by Miss Wilkinson; Charlotte Brontë by Miss Good; Longfellow by Miss Harvey; Wagner by Miss Paterson; and Mahomet by Miss Lowe. The children's Musical Evening was on Wagner, which fitted in well, and followed Miss Paterson's evening.

The Poetry Club had its last meeting on Saturday, December 2nd. It was decided to present two books to the Library: Shackleton's "Heart of the Antarctic," and Bartlett's "Familiar Quotations." About the middle of the term we had an examination, set and corrected by Mrs. Firth, on Tuscan and Venetian Artists. Miss Mason gave two pictures for the two best papers. We have not played very much hockey this term owing to the weather, but the eleven best players have been chosen, and are entitled to wear 1st XI. badges, enlarged and embroidered copies of the H. O. E. badge. We have only had one out-of-door Scout Meeting, a paper chase over the lower slopes of Red Screes and Wansfell, but a good deal of work for Tassels has been done. The

tassels are to be presented on December 12th, and on the evening before there will be the Dance. This reminds us very forcibly that the Finals are upon us, and that on December 15th even they will be over.—Yours,
THE PRESENT STUDENTS.

SCOUTING.

FOURTH DEMONSTRATION AND GIVING OF TASSELS.

The Peewits. Troop I. Parents' Union School Scouts.

PROGRAMME, 14TH DECEMBER, 1911.

1. March in of the Peewits.
2. Report of Patrol II., P.U.S.S. The Rooks.
3. Contests in General Efficiency (open to all who have the tassel).
4. Report of Patrol VII., P.U.S.S. The Cuckoos.
5. Nature Lore Contests.
6. Report of Patrol VIII., P.U.S.S. The White Terriers.
7. Surveyors' Contest.
Signallers' Contest.
First Aid Contest.
8. Song.
9. Position of Scouting in the P.U.S.S. and Regulations for joining.
10. Report of the Peewits.
11. Giving of Tassels.

The first item on the programme illustrated the history of the Union Jack. First of all came the English Peewits, under a standard bearing St. George's Cross, and with the words, "St. George for England" printed upon another. The Scottish and Irish Peewits followed in similar fashion. The march was followed by the reading of the Proclamation of James I., which commanded the Union of St. George and St. Andrew, and the standard at this stage of its history was brought on. After the facts which told about the Union of

the three countries had been given, all the Peewits marched in, bearing Union Jacks, and when the biggest one was unfurled, we all saluted.

The contests were very interesting, as no one knew beforehand what she might be asked to do. General efficiency included knot-tying, also "quick sight," *i.e.*, looking at objects for a short time, then writing them down from memory; "Observation," *i.e.*, making a diagram of the arrangement of pictures and furniture on the wall to which their backs were turned. The Nature Lore Contests were in the form of lists of birds, flowers, stars, and whoever was quickest over the list gained the contest. The Surveyors had to measure the passage by pacing, also to judge the width of the classroom, and to box the compass. Signallers had to read, and then send, a message in Morse.

Those who have qualified in First Aid were called upon to do bandaging; also to make a stretcher, and bring some one back on it.

The Reports of Patrols made a new feature in our demonstration. There were only three to read, as the Magpies and the Wolves failed to send word of their doings. By kind permission of the Editor and Executive Committee, from January, 1912, the Children's Quarterly will contain the Scouting News of the Parents' Union School. A summary and criticism of Reports send in this autumn will appear in the next Quarterly, so there is no need for further detail about them here. Those who do scouting in their posts are referred to the January number of the *Parents' Review*, and the children's Quarterly.

Whenever there is room for it, a more detailed account of the Scouting at Scale How will appear in the *PIANTA*.

The last demonstration of the Peewits took place in April, 1911, and was very successful. This term we have not had many scouting practices, but in an independent way, the Peewits have been very busy. The games which we have had were Flag Raiding and Hares and Hounds. And the former

were present a P.U.S. child with her governess, an ex-student. They were glad to have the opportunity to scout in company, and all enjoyed the afternoon on Loughrigg.

In private enterprise, surveying has been taken up more this term than previously. It is a study of absorbing interest, though there are difficulties in it, certainly, in obtaining accurate results from measurements; but it gives great satisfaction when successfully accomplished. First Aid work has been done by a few Peewits, but press of work has prevented others. Most Peewits have learnt Morse, and one showed herself efficient in Semaphore also. Tassels have been gained as well in General Efficiency, Nature Lore, Housecraft, Handicrafts, and Needlecraft. The Scout's Tassel deserves a word or two about itself. Each week there has been work set to do, varied in its nature. The work included the making of a model stick ladder, the accurate knowledge of one's own dimensions, etc. The last part was original work of any description that had some bearing on scouting. One Peewit made up a poem, another set it to music, another made an indiarubber stamp of a Peewit's head, to be used officially on Scouting Notices, etc. At the Demonstration, tassels were awarded, and afterwards Miss Mason graciously accepted from the Peewits the first Honour of the White Tip.

J. H. SMITH.

HINTS ON THE TEACHING OF DRAWING IN THE P.U.S.

In answer to two welcome letters stating the difficulties of the P.N.E.U. schoolwork drawing lessons, I write the following suggestions, and if anyone acts on them it will give me great pleasure to see and hear results, either through the Editor or directly at my own address.

Question 1 is on the difficulties of perspective in original illustration. Should rules of perspective be taught to children, and if so, at what age?

Answer.—To the best of my knowledge the only way worth following is that of the scholars of whatever age finding out facts for themselves by observation and experiment. This road will not, perhaps, lead them very far, but will give some sure foundation. They are all aware that distance lessens the apparent size of an object. It will be excellent if pupils can be put in the way of finding out for themselves in what proportion this happens, as the distance *from the observer* increases. Again, the four lines of a plain table top can be drawn from different points of view, so that the queer behaviour of the lines, or the easier views are noticed. Or, again, the change in a horizontal line when looked at from above, on a level, or from below can easily be appreciated by sitting on the floor or standing on a chair or taking any position between these levels, and looking at the lines of the furniture or walls. Of course, out of doors this is seen on a larger scale in the lines of tree tops, hedges, roads, houses. Do not overdo the lesson, but work often for a short time:

Question 2.—Do you recommend that young scholars have few colours?

Answer.—Certainly. Vermilion, chrome yellow, and cobalt to begin with, and if this is too small a number add emerald green, orange chrome, and purple lake. These six will be amply enough till the scholars become advanced. Better pigments may be found to supply these cheap ones if